



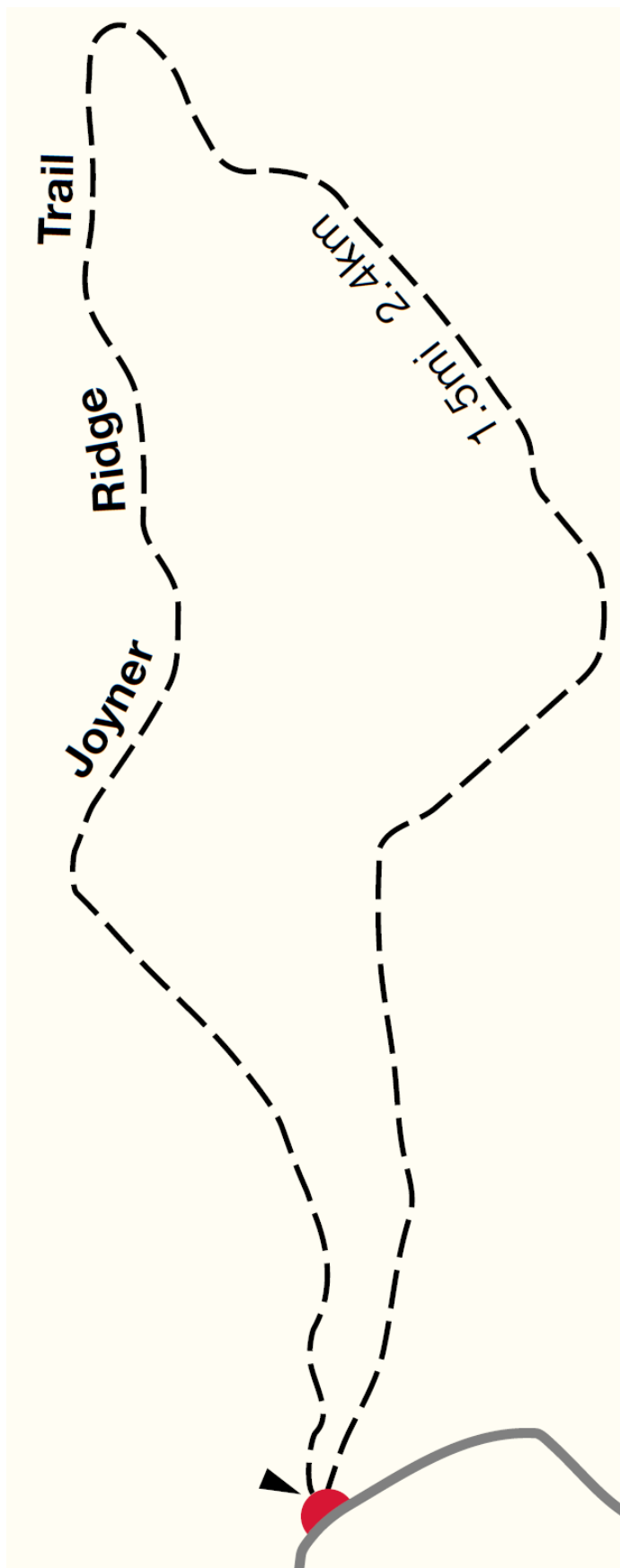
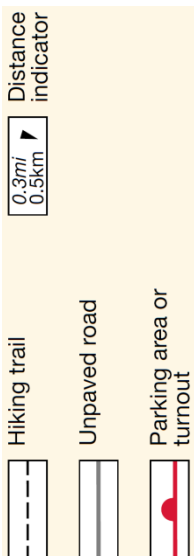
HABITAT HUNT

3-4 Grade

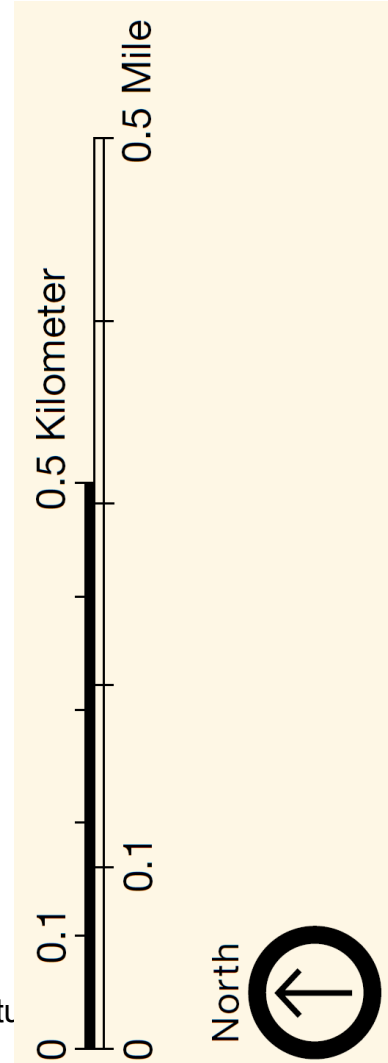
A habitat is the area in which a living organism finds those things necessary for life: food, water, shelter, and space. Habitats at Devils Tower National Monument include prairie, streamside (riparian), and woodland. Some animals live in the area at the edge or in between two habitats in the area known as the *ecotone* or transition zone.

- OBJECTIVE:** Students will evaluate the habitats available to plants and animals.
- PRE-SITE ACTIVITY:** Watch Devils Tower America's First National Monument. Have students list all the animals they see as the film plays and the habitat where each is found.
- STRANDS:** science study; recreation skills
- DURATION:** approximately 1.5 hours
- LOCATION:** Joyner Ridge Trail (BE SURE TO REMAIN ON THE TRAIL)
- VOCABULARY:** adaptations, ecotone, habitat, riparian, deciduous
- MATERIALS:** Devils Tower America's First National Monument - DVD (47 minute park film) This DVD can be sent on loan to the teacher upon request prior to the class visit.
Park Species Lists - <http://www.nps.gov/deto/naturescience/animals.htm>
student field journal
Trail map or map of the monument
pencil
clipboard
- SET-UP:** This activity may be done individually or in teams.
- PROCEDURE:** **Pre visit-** Tell students they are going on a "Habitat Hunt" - a special type of hike. Students will be exploring various habitats to see if they have all the requirements to be "good" habitats. Students should look at each habitat to see if it provides food, shelter, water, and space then discuss what kinds of plants and animals might live there. If basic requirements are missing, students should determine if there is a way to get the missing components somewhere else or what adaptations can be made (eg. prairie dogs get the water they need from the plants they eat).
- Participants will hike the trail through a variety of habitats (ponderosa pine forest-deciduous forest-prairie grassland,). On the trail map, students will mark approximate location of the ecotone and label habitats being studied. Students will complete the worksheets answering the questions as they apply to the habitat being studied. Other areas in the Monument may be considered such as the picnic/campground area, and the prairie dog town.
- FOLLOW-UP:** As a group, discuss the habitat(s) studied. See if students can identify other facts about the site; elevation compared to the Tower's base or the river, distance to a specified landmark, similarities/differences between sites, etc

TRAIL MAP



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FOLLOW-UP: Questions for review and discussion

1. List two habitats found on the trail
2. List three animals that may be found in each habitat
 - Were any animals observed? What kinds and how many of each?
 - Were signs of animals seen? What are they?
 - Does the area support the animals found in each habitat?
3. What are some different plants found in each habitat?
4. Do the different plants determine what animals might live in each habitat?
5. Are the transition zones clearly visible?
6. Considering all aspects of the area and habitats being studied, discuss if any of the following animals could be supported here (some may have been observed on the hike or signs may have been seen);
 - Deer?
 - Elk?
 - Porcupine?
 - Bear?
 - Mountain Lion?
 - Turkey?
 - Squirrel?



Other Resources:

These resources are available through Devils Tower National History Association (DTNHA), a not-for-profit organization established to support education and research efforts at Devils Tower National Monument. **DTNHA**

Who Pooped in the Black Hills? ISBN#: 1-56037-387-3 978-1-56037-387-2

Critters of Wyoming ISBN#: 978-1-885061-38-6 1-885061-38-2

Animal Tracks ISBN# 13 978-1-58355-072-4

Wildlife at Devils Tower National Monument ISBN# 13 978-1-58355-667-2

Devils Tower National Monument Checklist DETO Natural Resources

Devils Tower, America's First National Monument DTNHA DVD

National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States

USGS Bird Checklists for Devils Tower <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/chekbird/r6/devil.htm>

Teachers participating in a ranger-led Devils Tower National Monument Education Outreach Program receive a 15% discount on purchases from DTNHA. Discount is valid from the time a program is scheduled to one month after the program. Please provide name, school, and discount code Education Discount when you place your order at <http://www.devilstowernha.org>.